

Application Serial No. 10/014,692  
Amendment dated December 31, 2003  
Reply to Office Action dated September 10, 2003

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Appreciation is extended to Examiners Demakis and Jackson for the courtesies extended at the personal interview on December 9, 2003.

At the interview, the Examiners agreed that the subject matter of Claims 3 and 7 patentably defines over the prior art currently of record. Claims 1 and 5 have been canceled and Claims 3 and 7 rewritten in independent form to expressly recite the subject matter of canceled Claims 1 and 5, respectively. Furthermore, the dependencies of Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 have been revised and the apparatus claims have been canceled without prejudice to their being resubmitted in a divisional patent application for further prosecution.

As discussed at the interview, the claimed subject matter represents a dramatic shift in the methodology utilized for preventing terminal pin venting upon the occurrence of a catastrophic high current event within the compressor. The current approach for such protection relates to the physical structure of the terminal cluster such as disclosed in Patent No. 4,252,394 cited in the last Office Action.

Although there are numerous circuits and systems for tripping out the compressor motor upon the occurrence of a current fault, the claimed invention represents a significant departure by comparing the current signal to a reference signal that is substantially greater than the current draw associated with a locked rotor condition and such that the current will subsequently heat the terminal to a level that the differential temperature between the pin and surrounding glass of the terminal exceeds the level where stresses in the glass will cause failure of the pin/glass seal. The trip points of prior art protection systems are much lower than this and will open the circuit only after a delay that is too lengthy to prevent the pin/glass seal failure.

It is believed that the claims are now in condition for allowance and it is requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and that the application be passed to issue.



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However, if further issues remain, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at 260-460-1692.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: January 2, 2004

JOHN F. HOFFMAN, REG. NO. 26,280

Name of Registered Representative

Signature

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